



UNDER THE OAK TREE

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ARMY VALUES

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This month I would like us all to evaluate our values, for it is our values that make us the greatest Army in the world.

Many people know what the words Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage mean. But how often do you see someone actually live up to them? Soldiers learn these values in detail during Basic Combat Training, from then on, they live them every day in everything they do – whether they're on the job or off. In short, the seven Core Army Values listed below are what being a 2nd Infantry Division Warrior is all about.

Loyalty

Bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit and other Soldiers. Bearing true faith and allegiance is a matter of believing in and devoting yourself to something or someone. A loyal Soldier is one who supports the leadership and stands up for fellow Soldiers. By wearing the uniform of the U.S. Army and the 2nd ID patch you are expressing your loyalty, and by doing your share you show your loyalty to your unit.

Duty

Fulfill your obligations. Doing your duty means more than carrying out your assigned tasks. Duty means being able to accomplish tasks as part of a team. The work of 2nd ID is a complex combination of missions, tasks and responsibilities. Our work entails building one assignment onto another. You fulfill your obligations as a part of your unit every time you resist the temptation to take "shortcuts" that might undermine the integrity of the final product.

Respect

Treat people as they should be treated. In the Soldier's Code, we pledge to "treat others with dignity and respect while expecting others to do the same." Respect is what allows us to appreciate the best in other people. Respect is trusting that all people have done their jobs and fulfilled their duty. Self-respect is a vital ingredient with the Army value of respect, which results from knowing you have put forth your best effort. The Army is one team and each of us has something to contribute.

Selfless Service

Put the welfare of the Army, the 2nd ID and your subordinates before your own. Selfless service is larger than just one person. In serving your country, you are doing your duty loyally without thought of recognition or gain. The basic building blocks of selfless service is the commitment of each team member to go a little further, endure a little longer and look a little closer to see how he or she can add to the effort.

Honor

Live up to Army values. The nation's highest military award is the Medal of Honor. It is presented to Soldiers who make honor a matter of daily living – Soldiers who develop the habit of being honorable, and solidify that habit with every choice they make. Honor is a matter of carrying out, acting and living the values of respect, duty, loyalty, selfless service, integrity and personal courage in everything you do.

Integrity

Do what's right, legally and morally. Integrity is a quality you develop by adhering to moral principles. It requires that you do and say nothing that deceives others. As your integrity grows, so does the trust others place in you. The more choices you make based on integrity, the more this highly prized value will affect your relationships with Family and friends, and, finally, the fundamental acceptance of yourself.

Personal Courage

Face fear, danger or adversity (physical or moral). Personal courage has long been associated with our Army. With physical courage, it is a matter of enduring physical duress and at times risking personal safety. Facing moral fear or adversity may be a long, slow process of continuing forward on the right path, especially if taking those actions is not popular with others. You can build your personal courage by standing up for and acting upon the things you know are honorable.